



Animal Health Update

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

Winter 2022

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Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

On January 14, 2022, the USDA confirmed a case of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in a [wild bird in South Carolina](#). Fifty-two additional wild birds were confirmed with the disease in North and South Carolina. Some wild birds and game birds can carry the disease without appearing sick. However, HPAI is highly fatal in chickens, turkeys, and other bird species. Chicken and turkey owners should watch for signs of disease in their birds including swollen discolored combs, swelling around the eyes, ruffled feathers, open mouth breathing, and high rates of death loss. If you see these signs of illness in your birds, report them immediately to your veterinarian or to UDAF at the phone number below. Bird owners can learn more about HPAI and biosecurity through USDA's [Defend the Flock Program](#).



News Briefs:

- UDAF will be moving to the [Taylorsville State Office Building](#) in March. The new address will be 4315 S 2700 W, Taylorsville, UT 84129. Phone numbers will remain the same.
- [Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease](#) was recently diagnosed in a domestic rabbit in Salt Lake County. RHD is spread through wild rabbits, feed, and on clothing and shoes. Rabbit owners should contact their veterinarian for more information on RHD vaccines.
- The [Community Animal Response Program](#) will have a booth at the [Be Ready Utah Expo](#) at the Mountain America Expo Center in Sandy on February 25 from 2-8 pm and February 26 from 9 am - 6 pm. Come learn more about how to protect your animals during a disaster.
- The Animal Health Program has been working on our state [Secure Food Supply Plans](#). These plans allow movement of animals and products (like eggs, wool, or milk) from farms that are in a quarantine area for an emergency animal disease. Producers interested in developing biosecurity plans for their farms should contact us.
- The [Utah Horse Racing Commission](#) and [Utah Quarter Horse Racing Association](#) have four weekends of racing planned for 2022: April 9/10 and April 30 at Weber Downs in Ogden and May 14/15 and May 30 at Laurel Downs in South Jordan. License applications are available on the UHRC and UQHRA websites. All entered horses will be required to be tested for [piroplasmosis](#) prior to racing.
- Veterinarians should always check with the state of destination when writing a health certificate as import requirements may have changed. The Animal Health Program is currently in the process of reviewing our [animal health import requirements](#) for all species.
- We have thousands of individually-packaged sterile 3" polyester swabs (see pic) available for free for veterinarians or animal owners. Contact [Dr. Amanda Price](#) if interested.

